

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 MC-02 IO-03 RSR-01 /058 W
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R 091245Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4328
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJ: MR 2 SITREP JULY 9

HEREWITH REPEAT OF NHA TRANG MESSAGE 0679 FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL NHA TRANG 0679

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 9

1. SECURITY SITUATION: NEARLY HALF OF ALL THE INCIDENTS
REPORTED IN MR 2 DURING THE PAST 72 HOURS OCCURRED IN KONTUM:
22 OF A TOTAL OF 45. INCIDENTS IN THE OTHER 11 PROVINCES OF THE
REGION WERE SCATTERED AND SMALL-SCALE; SEVEN IN BINH DINH, SIX
IN BINH THUAN, FOUR IN PHU BON, TWO EACH IN PHU YEN AND TUYEN
DUC, AND ONE EACH IN KHANH HOA AND QUANG DUC. REPORTED
CASUALTIES ALSO REFLECT THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING IN
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KONTUM IN CONTRAST TO REST OF REGION: VC/NVA: 60 KIA (37 IN

KONTUM), NINE CAPTURED; RVNAF: 20 KIA (18 IN KONTUM), 84 WIA (73 IN KONTUM), AND 12 MISSING (SIX IN KONTUM). THE 45 INCIDENTS INCLUDED: 16 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE, 13 GROUND ASSAULTS, EIGHT FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN ENEMY AND RVNAF UNITS ON PATROL, FOUR MININGS, THREE SUCCESSFUL RVNAF SEARCH OPERATIONS, AND ONE INCIDENT INVOLVING A POSSIBLE PSDF DEFECTON IN WHICH FIVE ADOLESCENT PSDF IN BINH THUAN WERE REPORTED MISSING WITH THEIR WEAPONS ON THE MORNING AFTER A NIGHT AMBUSH, INVOLVING NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY, IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATED.

2. THE KONTUM INCIDENTS WERE ALL LISTED AS ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND ASSAULTS FOLLOWED BY RVNAF REACTION, OR FIREFIGHTS. NEARLY ALL INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE AND, JUDGING FROM HIGH CASUALTIES ON THE RVNAF SIDE, STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE AGAINST COUNTER-ATTACK CONTINUED UNABATED. OTHER KONTUM INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN AREAS WITHIN A 10 KM RADIUS OF TRUNG NGHIA TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH BUT, TO DATE, THE ENEMY HAS NOT MADE GOOD HIS THREAT TO REVENGE VNAF BOMBING OF DAK TO AIRSTRIP BY SHELLING KONTUM CITY AND OTHER GVN "REAR AREAS."

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM THE MR 2 NHA TRANG OPERATIONS CENTER SITUATION REPORT, CONSUL PLEIKU/ KONTUM REPORTED ON JULY 9 THAT ARVN FORCES IN THE KONTUM BATTLE SUFFERED VERY HEAVY CASUALTIES ON JULY 6 WHEN, AMONG OTHER INCIDENTS, TWO COMPANIES TO THE NORTH OF TRUNG NGHIA WERE FORCED BACK ONE KILOMETER BY NVA ATTACKS. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 7 AND 8, WERE RELATIVELY QUIET, HOWEVER, WITH BAD WEATHER PREVENTING ANY AIRSTRIKES. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONTINUING INCIDENTS AND CONTACTS (2 OR 3 A DAY) TO THE SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY, BUT THE PF THERE APPEAR TO BE HOLDING WELL. THE CITY ITSELF REMAINS CALM WITH NO SIGNS OF PANIC DESPITE THE HEAVY FIGHTING NEARBY.

4. ICCS: INDONESIAN ICCS DELEGATE, AMBASSADOR DHARSANO, WHO WAS VISITING NHA TRANG FROM SAIGON, TOLD THE ACTING CONSUL GENERAL ON JULY 7 THAT INDONESIA DID NOT WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE ON THE ICCS WITH THE HUNGARIANS AND EVEN LESS WITH BOTH THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES. IT MUCH PREFERENCES A FOUR PARTY COMMISSION TO A TWO PARTY ONE AND CERTAINLY TO A TRI-
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ANGULAR ORGANIZATION. DHARSANO CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT MALAYSIA WOULD PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT JOIN THE COMMISSION FOR FEAR OF ANTAGONIZING THE PRC, WITH WHICH IT IS MOVING TOWARD ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE ADDED THAT ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA WAS ALSO THE REAL REASON WHY JAPAN DECLINED MEMBERSHIP. MALAYSIA IN ADDITION WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SPARE THE NECESSARY OFFICERS BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS IN KALIMANTAN.

5. THE AMBASSADOR WOULD NOT ADMIT TO HAVING ANY FAVORITES FOR THE SOON-TO-BE-VACANT FOURTH SLOT AND IN FACT SAW NO STRONG CONTENDERS FOR THE POSITION.

6. CONSUL PHAN THIET REPORTS THAT THE CANADIANS AT ICCS REGION IV HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN FORBIDDEN BY THEIR COMMANDER TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE PHAN THIET FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR STAY IN VIET-NAM UNLESS THEY ARE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS OR IN THE COMPANY OF OTHER ICCS DELEGATES. ONE CANDEL OFFICER PREDICTED THAT FURTHER UNOFFICIAL TRIPS WOULD MOST LIKELY NOT REPEAT NOT BE WORTH THE EFFORT REQUIRED TO ARRANGE THEM. COMMENT: THIS RESTRICTION HAS PRESUMABLY BEEN ORDERED IN RESPONSE TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TWO CANDELS IN ICCS REGION V. END COMMENT.

7. TPJMC: COL. NGUYEN MANH DINH, GVN REGION IV (PHAN THIET) TPJMC CHIEF, TOLD OUR CONSUL ON JULY 6 THAT THE PRG HAS NOT YET AGREED TO PLACE ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIELD IN GVN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY AND THAT THIS WAS A FACTOR HOLDING UP PROGRESS IN THE SAIGON TALKS. COL. DINH ADDED THAT THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE SOLVED VERY QUICKLY, OR AGAIN, MIGHT DRAG ON FOR A LONG TIME.
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UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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